

What is Claimed is:

1. A system for input of Chinese characters into a machine, comprising:

means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a component and a character;

means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters and compounds;

means for process of said input information into internal codes for said Chinese characters, said process means including a plurality of Chinese character encoding processes based on said stored data; and

means for display providing indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said display; wherein input of said information presents further character selection information in response to said input.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for input is selected from the group consisting of a keyboard and a touch-screen.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said touch screen which is incorporated with said display means, and said touch screen comprises a virtual keyboard

comprising a representation of keys, each said key representation assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said touch screen further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

4. The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said keyboard, said keyboard comprising keys, each said keys assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said keyboard further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese character, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the identification and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the first character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic components of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's membership within various subsets of Chinese characters.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese word, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the frequency of occurrence of said word with respect to a user's language, and (2) indicators of said word's membership within the various subsets of all Chinese words.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein said component is orthographic.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a component comprised of a plurality of sub-components.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the order for the display of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chinese characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the previous selection.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the character frequencies are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific operator.

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11. A method for inputting Chinese characters into a machine,  
comprising the steps of:

(a) inputting a selection for an initial stroke and reviewing candidates displayed in response to said initial stroke input, wherein said candidates include at least one character or at least one component;

(b) selecting a character or, if a desired character is not displayed, selecting a further stroke or a displayed component; and

(c) selecting a word associated character or a non-word associated character, such that Chinese text is constructed with said selections.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein selection of said non-word associated character automatically appends a word separator.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein said machine comprises a means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a component and a character; a means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters and compounds; a means for process of said input information into internal codes for said Chinese characters, said process means

including a plurality of Chinese character encoding processes based on said stored data; and a means for display providing indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said display.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said means for input is a keyboard, or a touch-screen which is incorporated with said display means and which comprises a virtual keyboard.

15. The method according to claim 13, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese character, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the identification and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the first character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic components of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's membership within various subsets of Chinese characters.

16. The method according to claim 13, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese word, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the

frequency of occurrence of said word with respect to a user's language, and (2) indicators of said word's membership within the various subsets of all Chinese words.

17. The method according to claim 13, wherein said component is orthographic.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a component comprised of a plurality of sub-components.

19. The method according to claim 13, wherein the order for the display of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chinese characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the previous selection.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the character frequencies are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific operator.

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